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MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

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CODE
AUTHORITY



THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG FU

THIS SIDE
OF DEATH!



ZECK/DAY

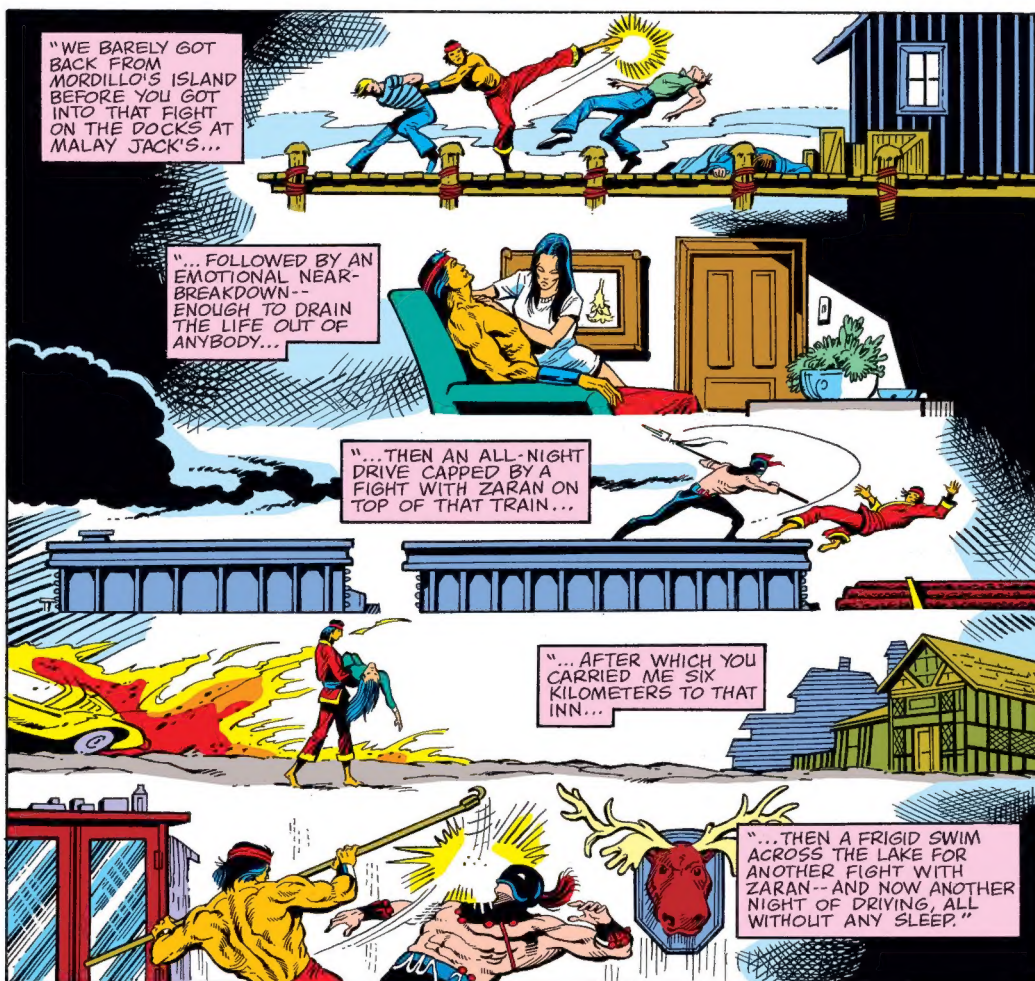
"Call me Shang-Chi, as my *father* did, when he raised me in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. Since then, I have learned that my father is Dr. Fu Manchu, the most insidiously evil man on earth...and that to *honor* him would bring nothing but *dishonor* to the spirit of my name.

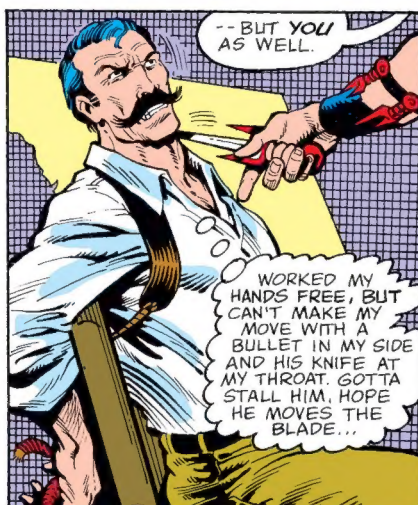
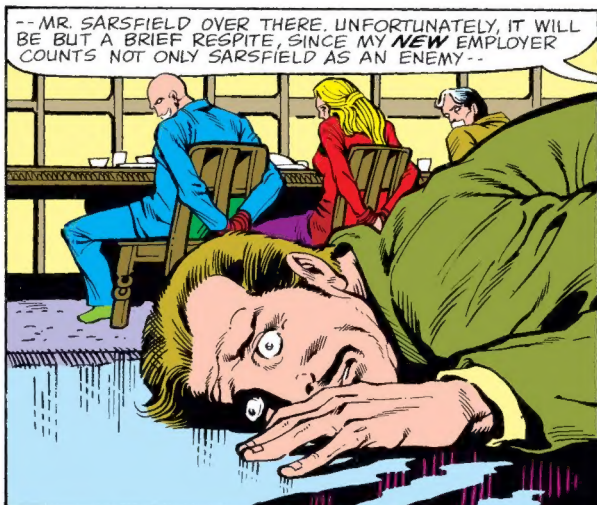
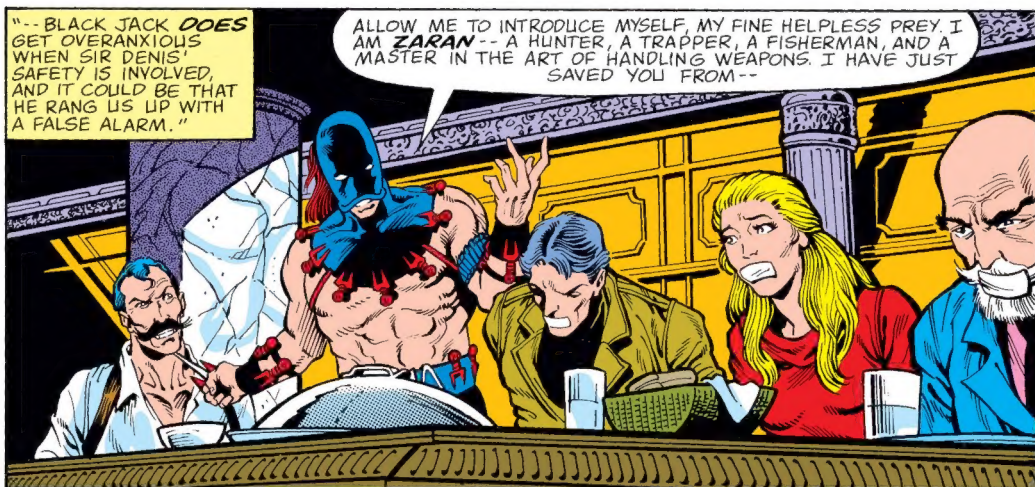
Stan Lee PRESENTS: **MASTER OF KUNG FU!**®

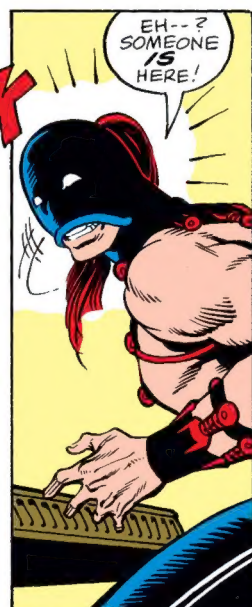
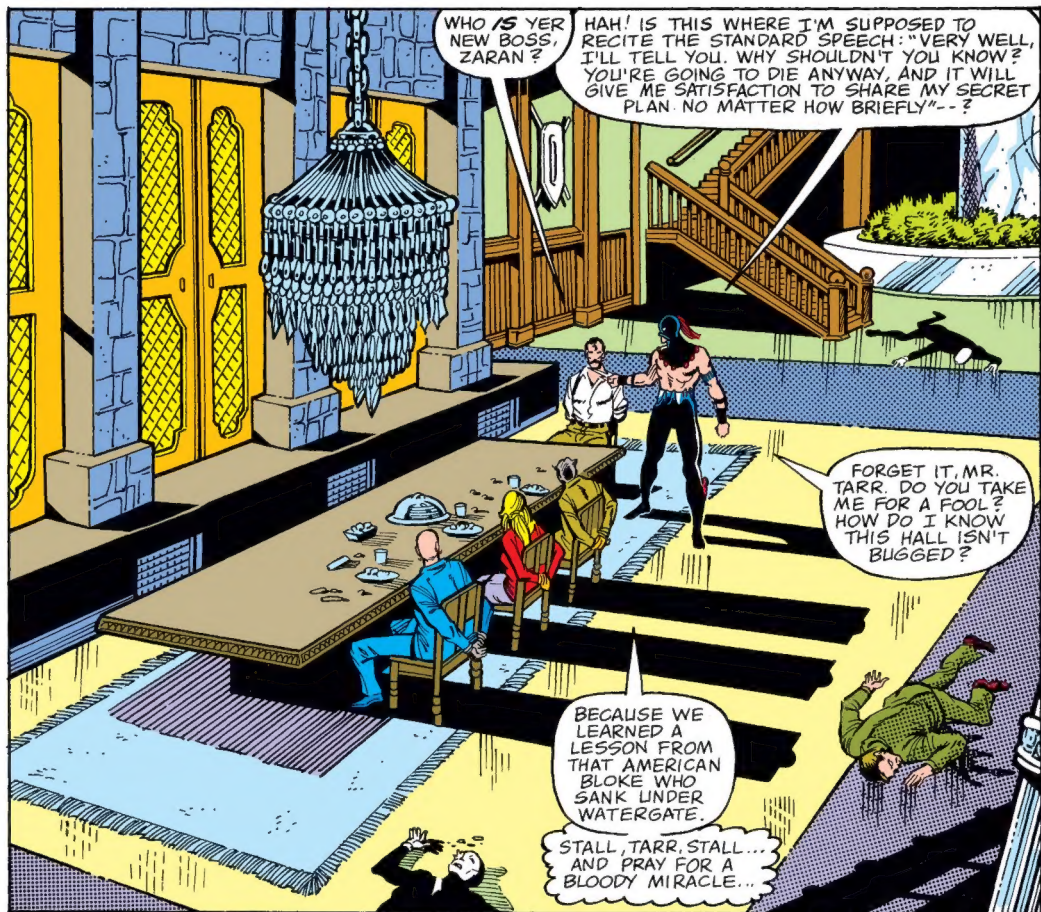
Featuring supporting characters created by SAX ROHMER

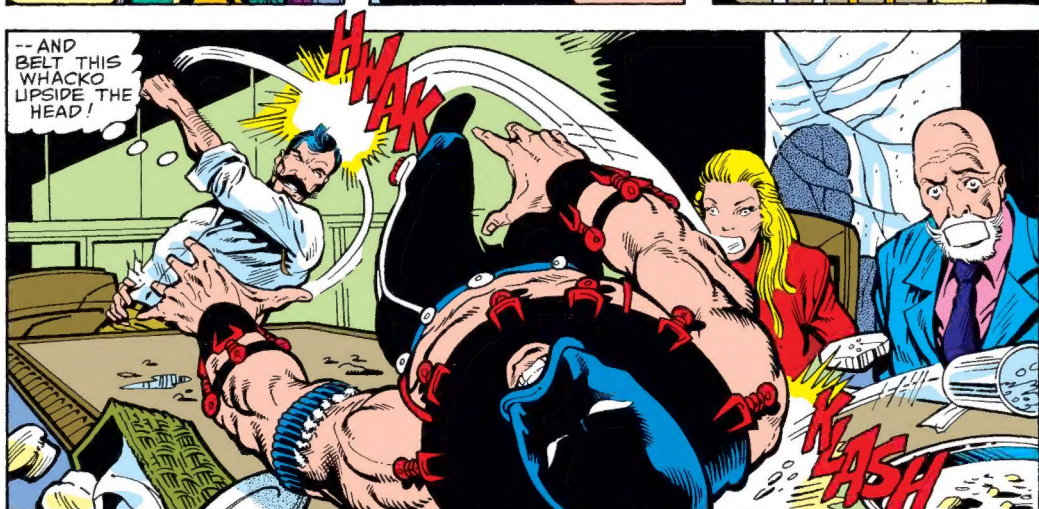
DOUG MOENCH / MIKE ZECK / GENE DAY / J. NOVAK, LETTERER / ROGER STERN / JIM SHOOTER
WRITER PENCILER INKER B. SHAREN, COLORIST EDITOR ED-IN-CHIEF



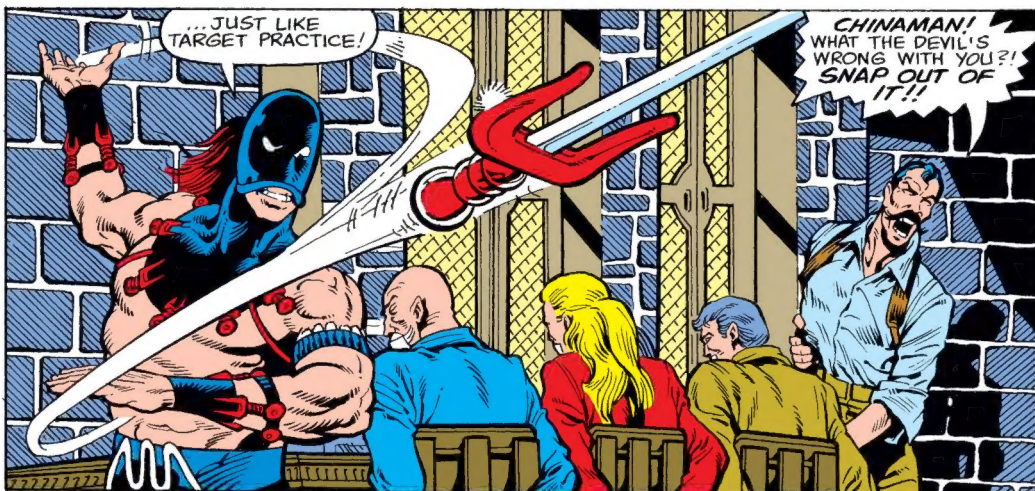
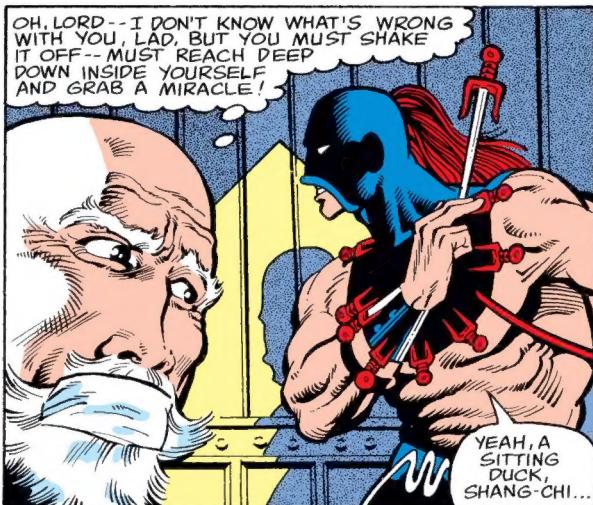














"WHAT? AGAIN? LEIKO'S HEAD HURT AGAIN BY ZARAN'S KNIFE?"



"PERHAPS IT IS A DREAM, A PHANTOM-SCENE SCULPTED BY ILLNESS, A FEVER-VISION, BUT IF NOT... MUST FIGHT BACK, JUST IN CASE... IF I CAN..."



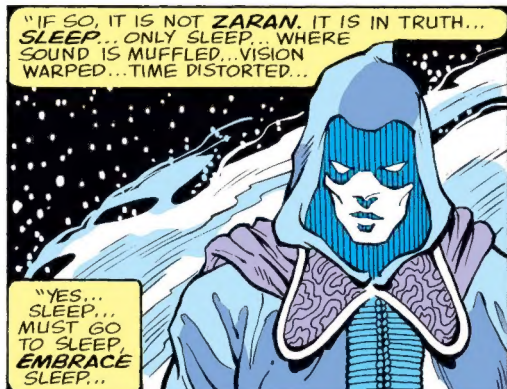
"YOU CAN BARELY STAND, SHANG-CHI! YOU'RE NOTHING BUT AN EASY KILL!"

"HAH! YOU DEFLECTED MY BLADE BY A FLUKE!"

"I MOVE THROUGH THICK LIQUID... BUT I SWORE I WOULD MEET ZARAN AGAIN TO AVENGE WHAT HE DID TO LEIKO THE FIRST TIME... AND NOW HE HAS DONE IT AGAIN... OR *HAS* HE?"

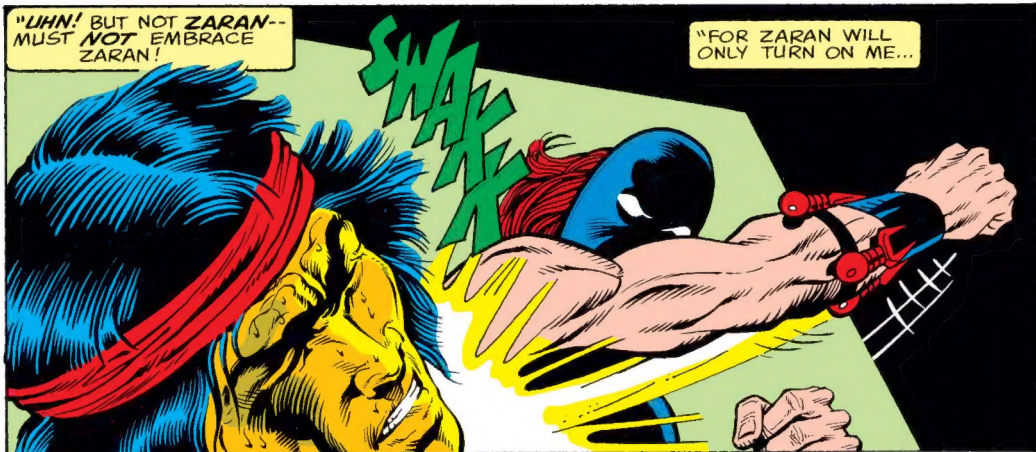


"IS HE REALLY HERE, OR DO I MERELY IMAGINE HIM? HAS MY DESIRE TO FACE HIM AGAIN CREATED THIS *FANTASY* OF HIS PRESENCE?"



"IF SO, IT IS NOT ZARAN. IT IS IN TRUTH... *SLEEP*... ONLY SLEEP... WHERE SOUND IS MUFFLED... VISION WARPED... TIME DISTORTED..."

"YES... SLEEP... MUST GO TO SLEEP, *EMBRACE* SLEEP..."



"UHN! BUT NOT ZARAN--
MUST **NOT** EMBRACE
ZARAN!"

"FOR ZARAN WILL
ONLY TURN ON ME..."



"... BETRAYING ME IN
MY WEAKNESS..."



"... USING MY NEED
FOR SLEEP TO
BEAT ME ..."



"... BEAT ME DOWN, INTO
SLEEP... **FOREVER.**"



"HAVE I FALLEN? OR HAS
HE GROWN? HE IS LARGER
THAN LIFE, AND I THINK HE
GLOATS NOW..."

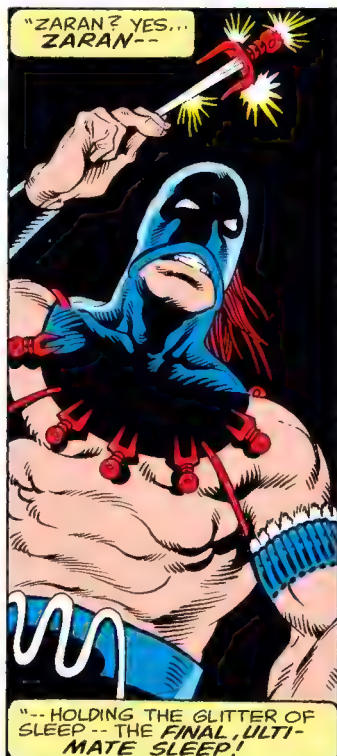
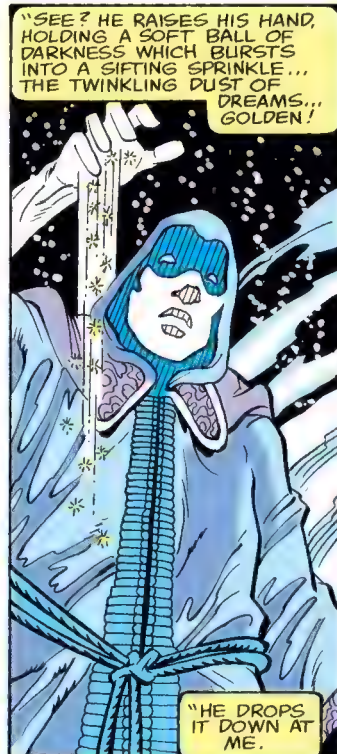
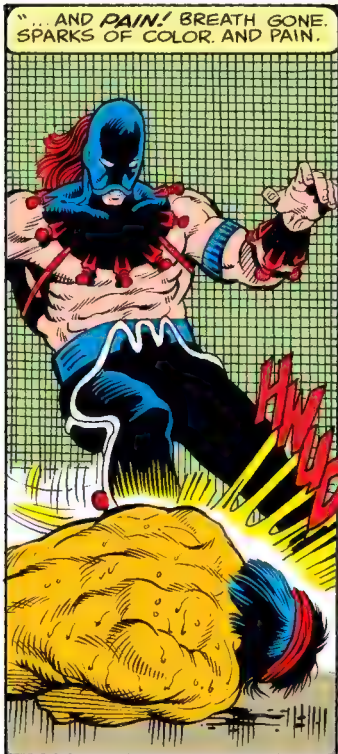


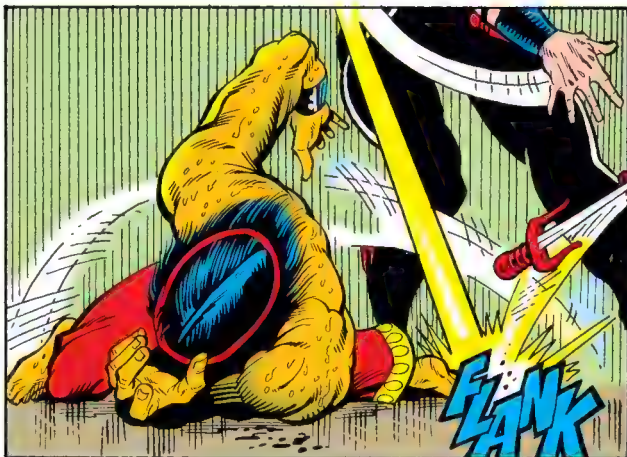
"BUT... LOOKING UP... HE IS
GONE AGAIN. THERE IS
NOTHING..."



"... NOTHING
BUT...
SLEEP..."

"... SOOTHING
SLEEP..."





ZARAN... YOU... TRIED...
TO... **TRICK**... ME...



"I RISE, MY EYES
BURNING, MY VEINS
AFIRE, FUELED BY
STREAMING ADRENALIN..."



"... MY TONGUE
TASTING THE BITE
OF SHEARED
COPPER..."



"... MY NOSTRILS
FLARED TO THE
BRIMSTONE WHICH
EXPANDS MY CHEST..."



"... MY FEVER
RAGING, MY BODY
HIGH AND READY
TO **BURST**."

YOU **TRICKED**
ME.

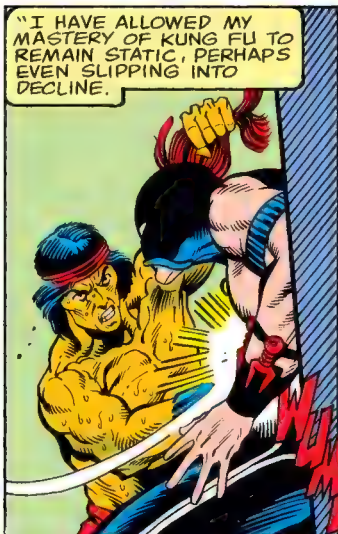
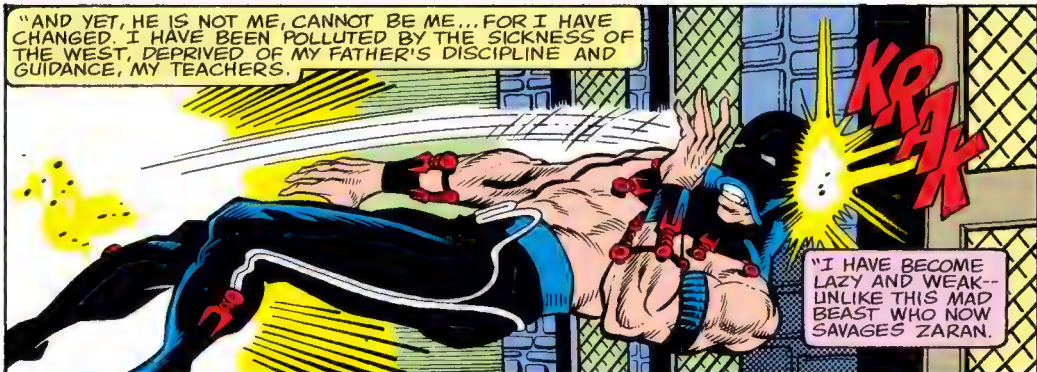


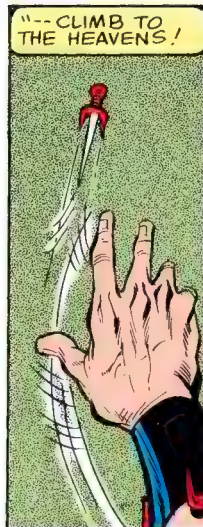
KI-YAAIIIIIEEE

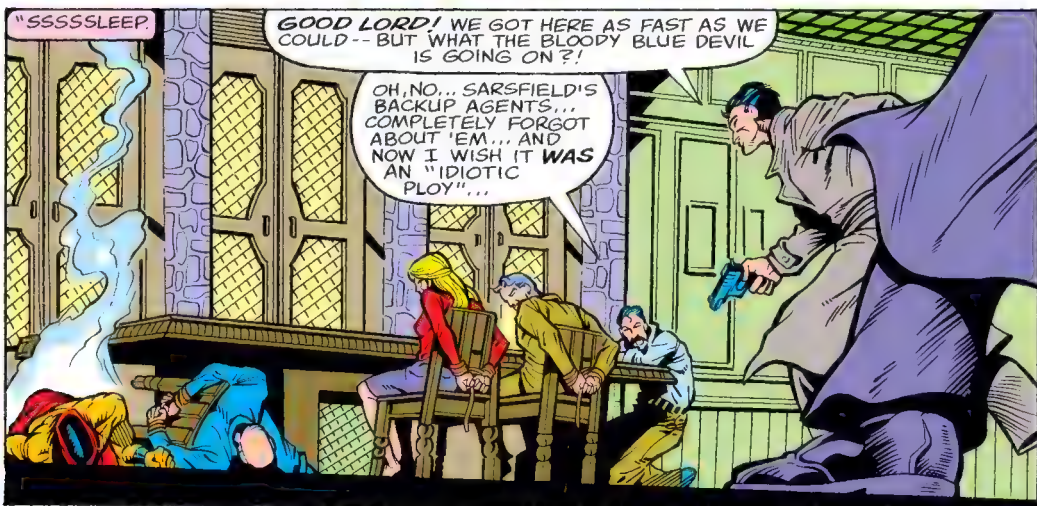
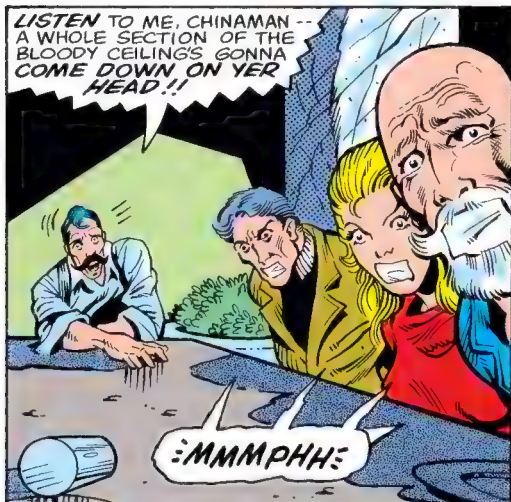
"IT BURSTS AND
SOMEHOW I LEAVE
MY BODY... TO
WATCH THIS STRANGE
CREATURE, THIS
MADDENED BEAST
BLAZING FROM THE
VERY HEART OF THE
MARTIAL ARTS STATE
OF AWARENESS."

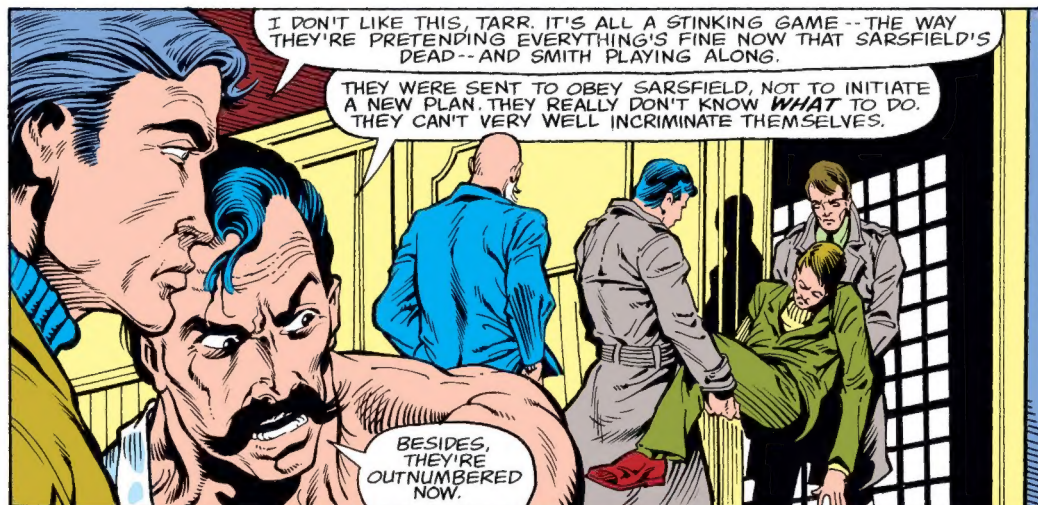
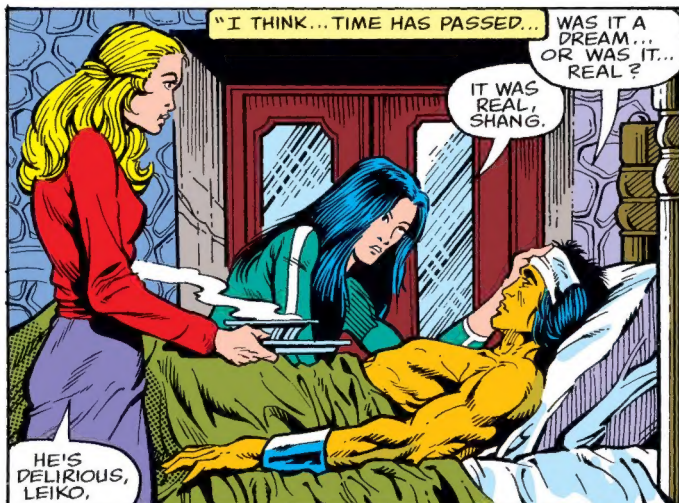
"I KNOW HE
CANNOT BE
STOPPED."

"I THINK... HE IS
ME."









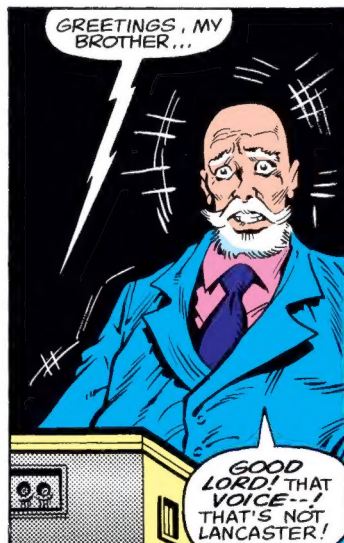
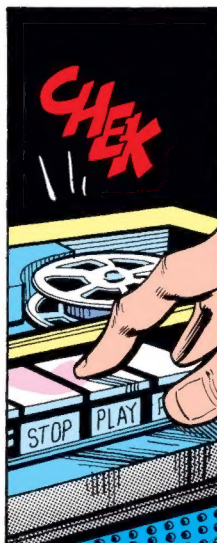
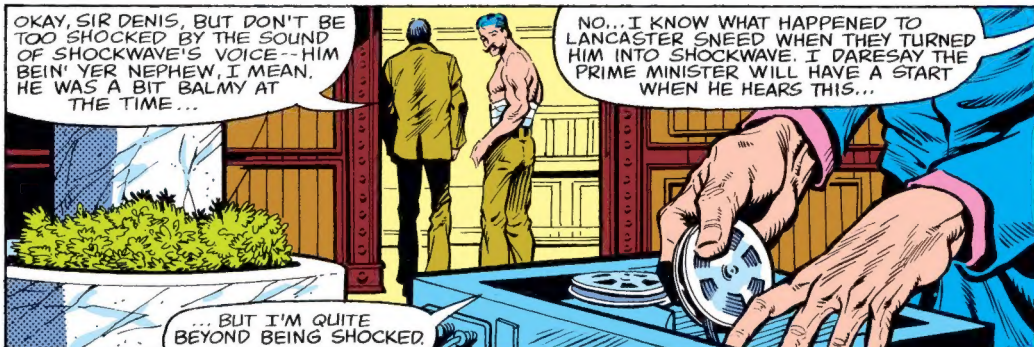
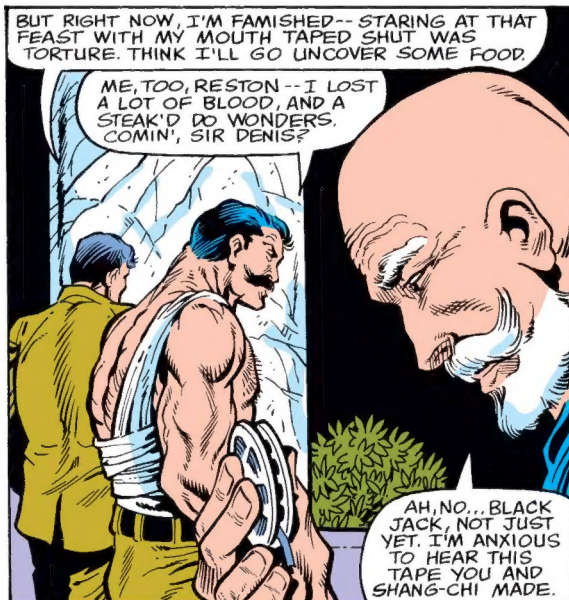
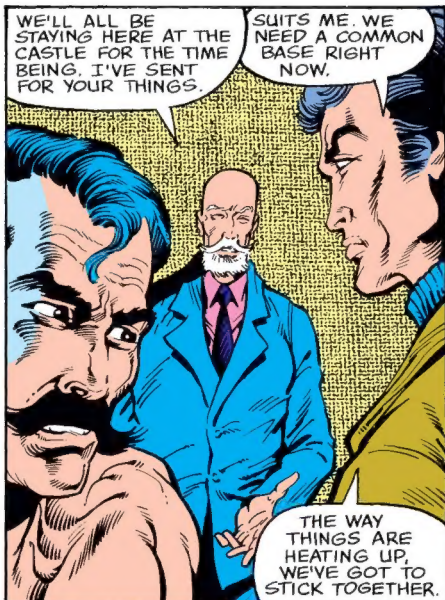


FIGURE WAS... SO FAMILIAR... CERTAIN I... I **KNEW** THAT FIGURE... THAT VOICE...



"...THE ONE WHO VISITED ZARAN'S LODGE... THEN LEFT AFTER A SHORT WHILE... WHILE I WAITED IN THE COLD WATER... BEFORE I WENT IN TO FACE ZARAN... TO GET THE TAPE... BUT WHO? WHO WAS IT?"



AS YOU KNOW, AN OLD TAPE IS **ERASED** WHEN A NEW RECORDING IS MADE OVER IT.

LORD HELP US, BUT THAT VOICE--! IT... IT BELONGS TO--



"--FAH LO SUEE, THE DAUGHTER OF FU MANCHU!"



"...VOICE SO FAMILIAR... CHASING ME... HAUNTING ME FROM THE PAST... RUNNING... MUST ESCAPE... LEGS MOVING..."

"... BUT CAN'T MOVE... CAN'T GET AWAY! STOP IT! AND TELL ME-- PLEASE! AM I ... DREAMING?"



"OR DID LEIKO EVER REALLY MELT, DRESSED IN PURPLE SPARKS... BECAUSE SHE LOVED RESTON?"

NEXT: THE PRIDE OF LEOPARDS!

MISSIVES TO THE MASTER!

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

ROGER STERN
EDITOR
JIM SALICRUP
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Gone from our storyline, but hardly departed from our zany letters page, it's Brynocki Time, People—so let's get crazy!

Dear Brynocki-ites:

MASTER OF KUNG FU #74 is one of the best comic books I've ever read, and #72 and 73 weren't bad either! Not only do I love Shockwave, Brynocki, and all the other nasties of Mordillo Isle, but the way Doug Moench uses them in the storyline is perfectly ingenious.

While Doug is one of my favorite writers, and MOKF is his greatest achievement, I have never before written to Missives to the Master. Well, now's the time; I can remain silent no longer. Mordillo Isle is now by far my favorite place in all of Marveldom, and in this three-part story every one of the characterizations was superb. Brynocki was especially well developed, providing the frighteningly funny element which makes a bizarre story like this so excellent. I really can't praise this Mordillo Isle tale enough!

The art was excellent too. One thing I particularly liked, beyond the art itself, was the banner on the cover proclaiming: "BRYNOCKI TRIUMPHANT!" Beautiful, folks, just beautiful. And by the way, give my regards to the goofy little fella.

Douglas Mao
65-30 38 Ave.
Woodside, NY 11377

We tried, Doug, we really tried. But Brynocki's only comment was a metallically surly: "Nuts to you, Meat!"

Ave, Brynocki! Te moritori salutant (or whatever)!

What can I say? I'm gonna hold off on a long letter until the conclusion of this story, but I've just got to comment on "Brynocki Triumphant!" The Cannon-Zapper, the thug-drones, the dragonfly, Brynocki himself—everything was...insane. Gloriously insane! Brynocki is the best character in the book at the moment, and that's what really makes me gawk in delight at MOKF #74. Brynocki is simply STUPENDOUS! And much as I dislike letters of sheer mindless praise, there's nothing else to say. Awk!!

Kurt Busiek
Boks 88, Lawrinson, 303 Stadium Place
Syracuse, NY 13210

Thanks, Kurt, and don't feel so guilty. We do like letters of sheer mindless praise. . .or haven't you noticed?

Dear Doug and Mike:

For quite some time, I avoided MASTER OF KUNG FU because I thought it was just another example of a fad gone quite mad. Fandom was so excited about the book, though, that I finally bought one of the issues numbered in the early 60's. Naturally, I was quite impressed and began haunting the back issue stores in search of the complete run. I haven't succeeded in filling out the collection yet (and I may be a pauper by the time I do; do you know what those Moench/Gulacy issues are selling for?), but what I *have* read has tremendously impressed me. Picking up the Moench/Zeck issues has been easier and less expensive, but hardly less enjoyable.

Issue #74 continues my enjoyment. Mike's art, though not quite up to the standards of his issues immediately preceding this one, was still more than competent. He has a nice way of building suspense with those suddenly appearing white mime faces, and I can tell he's having a lot of fun with Brynocki's (and Doug's, I suspect) endlessly changing costumes. So am I.

The story was almost all action and it's usually hard for any writer to shine in an action story, but Doug Moench kept us

moving and thoroughly interested while granting Mike most of the glory. Considering issue #71 had almost no action (and therefore belonged chiefly to Doug), it seems things have a way of evening out in the end. Keep plugging, gang!

Thomas J. Owens
4550 N. Flowing Wells #115
Tucson, AZ 85705

Dear Kung Fu Folks,

Doug Moench is writing some pretty weird stories these days. Last month, in CAPTAIN MARVEL #60, he had UFOs landing in Kentucky while Mar-Vell was back on Titan getting drugged by a goat-footed creature of dubious origin and, later, being threatened by a ravishing woman with two predatory *things* on a leash. And now along comes MOKF #73 with its pale snail-riding elves, stupidly grinning and fire-breathing dragon, hideous skull-faced mountain lair which opens to the code-words "open sesame," and, last but not least, its wise-cracking caterpillar which is actually a land-rover in disguise, or vice-versa. The temptation is to say: "I don't know what you're on, Doug, but get in touch with Dizzy Gillespie's band." But I somehow doubt that the talented Mr. Moench hallucinated any of this stuff prior to putting it down on paper; more likely, he started out with the premise of everything going berserk on Mordillo Isle and, using only his marvelous imagination, followed it up all the way. Need I add that the results were as entertaining as they were bizarre? However, the strange spectacle of Shang-Chi and Leiko going up against the products of Mordillo's sick sense of humor did tend to obscure Doug's accomplishment insofar as weaving a complex but readily understandable narrative is concerned. He continues finding ways to involve the entire supporting cast in the storyline in progress, making MOKF the most fully realized book on the market in its portrayal of a closely knit group fighting a common foe. Whether it's Fu Manchu or War-Yore or Kogar or Shockwave and Brynocki, each and every member of the MOKF cast has his or her part in defeating the villains. In "Prisoners of the Crown," it was Chi and Leiko who were closest to the hub of things, but Smith and Reston and Miss Greville still enjoyed their share of the spotlight. The latter, in fact, was featured in the best-written, most down-to-earth scene of the entire story, which found her face-to-face with abductors she just couldn't bring herself to shoot, not even in obvious self-defense.

Much of #73's weird appeal was due to the way Mike Zeck handled the unusual visuals. Drawn in an appropriately cartoonish manner, the menaces all looked ludicrous, but deliberately so like shooting gallery targets designed to return fire, catching the intended victim about as offguard as he could be. Overall, Mike's storytelling is showing marked improvement, and his depiction of Shockwave is quite impressive. One hopes the same polish and attention to detail will begin to reflect itself in the stars of this book as well. Zeck doesn't lack ability; the Dr. Doom/Prime-Mover story proved that. What he may lack is experience, a quality which time and effort are sure to provide.

Ed Via
1648 Dean Rd.
Roanoke, VA 24018

We're glad everyone enjoyed the lunacy, but in response to Mr. Via's snide innuendo, Doug snorts that he's "freight as a sparrow!" Next issue things are somewhat less looney, but no less exciting or hectic as we gear up for the long-awaited return of a certain insidious "Devil Doctor" — or *do we?* Until we all find out, be good.